

to Rs. 516603 crore during 2005-06 except during the year 2002-03 when it was Rs.448740 crore. This decline in Gross Domestic Product in agriculture sector during the year 2002-03 was due to the severe drought that affected several States/regions in the country.

(c) Government is implementing a number of schemes for development of the agriculture sector. Major steps taken to increase agriculture production in the country, *inter-alia*, include:

- (i) enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure;
- (ii) ensuring timely availability of quality inputs;
- (iii) promoting farmer friendly, demand-driven agriculture extension system;
- (iv) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities;
- (v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain;
- (vi) Optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry land/rain fed farming system; and
- (vii) Putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers.

Use of old seeds in ISOPOM

1032. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are willing to allow use of seed varieties of older than ten years for demonstration in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in a situation where new varieties are not available; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Integrated

Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), use of seed varieties more than 10 years old are being permitted in different types of demonstrations i.e. Block Demonstrations, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations and Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs). However, in case of seed minikits, only seed varieties of less than 10 years old are being provided to the States free of cost in order to popularize newly released varieties of oilseeds, pulses and maize amongst farmers.

Growth rate of agriculture

1033. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the growth rate of agriculture envisaged for the current five year plan;
- (b) the growth rate of agriculture achieved so far, year-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that agricultural productivity of the country is very less than the goals set to be achieved;
- (d) whether Government have reviewed the situation which if allowed to continue may affect the food security of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to increase the agricultural productivity in the country and thereby achieving the agricultural growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) A target of 4 percent growth rate in agriculture and allied sectors was set during Tenth Plan Period (2002-2007).

(b) and (c) The growth rate of agriculture sector year-wise is given below:

Trend of Growth in Agriculture & Allied Sectors during First Four Years of Tenth Five Year Plan Period

Year	Growth (Percentage)
2002-03	- 6.9
2003-04	10.0
2004-05	0.7
2005-06	3.9